

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn; currently amended) A process for preparing polymeric beads of complexing resin incorporating magnetic particles, which process comprises: producing a dispersion having a continuous aqueous phase and a dispersed organic phase, said organic phase comprising one or more ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomers, magnetic particles and a dispersing agent for dispersing said magnetic particles in the organic phase; ~~polymerising~~ polymerizing said one or more ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomers to form polymeric beads incorporating said magnetic particles, wherein said polymeric beads include amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation, or wherein said polymeric beads are reacted with one or more compounds to provide amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

2-18. Cancelled.

19. (Previously amended) Polymeric beads of complexing resin comprising a polymer matrix having magnetic particles and a dispersing agent dispersed substantially uniformly therein, wherein the polymer matrix incorporates amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

20. (Previously amended) The polymeric beads of claim 19, wherein the dispersing agent is covalently bound within the polymeric matrix.

21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] Polymeric beads of complexing resin prepared by a process which comprises producing a dispersion having a continuous aqueous phase and a dispersed organic phase, said organic phase comprising one or more ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomers, magnetic particles and a dispersing agent for dispersing said

magnetic particles in the organic phase; ~~polymerising~~ polymerizing said one or more ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomers to form polymeric beads incorporating said magnetic particles, wherein said polymeric beads include amine groups that are capable of complexing a transition metal cation and that are provided by ~~polymerised~~ polymerized residues of said one or more ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomers, or wherein said polymeric beads are reacted with one or more compounds to provide amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~complexing resin~~ polymeric beads according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21 wherein the organic phase comprises two or more monomers.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~complexing resin~~ polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein said one or more ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomers are selected from:

- (a) crosslinking monomers which are able to provide crosslink points; and
- (b) functional monomers which are able to provide functional groups.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~The complexing resin~~ polymeric beads according to claim 23 wherein said functional monomer provides amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 24 wherein said functional monomer provides amine groups selected from dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, aminopropyl acrylamide and methacrylamide, N,N-dimethylaminopropyl acrylamide and methacrylamide, vinyl pyridine, organic-soluble diallylamine and vinylimidazole salts.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 23 wherein said functional monomer includes a functional group capable of reaction with one or more compounds to provide said amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups includes an amide group.

28. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 27 wherein said functional monomer including an amide group is selected from N-vinyl formamide and N-methyl-N-vinyl acetamide.
29. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups includes an epoxy group.
30. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ (polymeric beads according to claim 29 wherein said functional monomer including an epoxy group is glycidyl methacrylate.
31. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups is a vinyl ester.
32. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 31 wherein said vinyl ester is selected from acrylate and methacrylate esters.
33. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 32 wherein the acrylate ester is methyl acrylate.
34. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein said one or more polymerisable monomers further includes one or more back bone monomers.
35. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein said dispersed organic phase further comprises a porogen.
36. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein the magnetic particles are selected from  $\gamma$ -iron oxide, magnetite and chromium dioxide.
37. (Currently amended) The ~~process~~ polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein the dispersion is ~~stabilised~~ stabilized using a ~~stabilising~~ stabilizing agent.